

Bonn Atomic Guard Plea Stirs Europe

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Rusk, de Gaulle Talks Indicate New Approach

By Murrey Marder
Staff Reporter

PARIS, Dec. 16—President de Gaulle and Secretary of State Dean Rusk appear today to have paved the way for a continuing American-French dialogue about their two nations' profound differences.

In two conversations over a three-day period, they have conducted the most comprehensive high-level review of Franco-American differences since de Gaulle's talks with President Kennedy in 1961.

No one is contending that anything has been resolved. In particular, French hostility toward the varying American-German and British plans for creating a new allied nuclear force remains as great as ever. So does French opposition to America's dominant position in the Atlantic Alliance.

Plan More Talks

But for the first time in years, the two nations have talked seriously and substantively about their disagreements. Now there are plans for more talks on one of the most sensitive problems: co-ordination of nuclear targeting for the French and

American nuclear strike forces.

American Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and French Defense Secretary Pierre Messmer today held the first substantive American-French talk on this subject.

De Gaulle often has said that France would be interested in such discussions when she had enough of a nuclear force to warrant discussion about co-ordinating nuclear targeting strategy. It reportedly will be 1967 or 1968 before the embryonic French nuclear force will be large enough to justify extensive co-ordination with the United States' massive nuclear strike power. But the McNamara-Messmer talk was said to have produced agreement in principle that such discussions should be held.

It was forecast that these
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NATO forces in Europe already equipped with nuclear demolition weapons under U.S. control.

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France hands West Germany sharp setback on issue of German reunification.

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Prime Minister Wilson details plan for Atlantic nuclear force and says Soviet Premier will visit Britain.

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talks will begin next year to consider co-ordinating the small French *force de frappe* with the huge American Strategic Air Command, headquartered in Omaha, Neb. What would be considered is apportioning targets in Communist territory that, in event of war, would be hit by the few score French nuclear weapons and the thousands of American nuclear weapons.

Perhaps of much greater consequences, but a far murkier prospect, may be the significance of the discussions between de Gaulle and Rusk over ways to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons beyond the nations now possessing them: the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and Communist China.

This is a subject that is being given priority attention by President Johnson, with a degree of concern greatly beyond the significance attached to the disputed creation of a new allied nuclear force. But the two issues are directly related for the Johnson Administration.

A principal purpose of the proposed Multilateral Nuclear Force (MLF) of surface ships armed with nuclear missiles, is to head off any potential desires, especially in West Germany, to acquire a national nuclear force, and in addition, to encourage the concept of integrating national forces in the Atlantic Alliance. De Gaulle is vehemently opposed to integration on grounds that only nations that possess their own national nuclear forces carry weight in the modern world.

Rusk told newsmen after an

hour's meeting with de Gaulle at the Elysee Palace today:

"We resumed the talks of two days ago which had not been completed. We went further into the non-dissemination of nuclear weapons which we feel has been somewhat more of a problem since the Chinese detonation of an atomic device. "We also talked about Southeast Asia and Africa. I enjoyed the talk very much."

Rusk's reference to the somewhat increased anxiety about the spread of nuclear weapons since the Chinese detonation in October, represented a major diplomatic understatement. The Chinese nuclear blast has been a topic of major concern in the White House.

There was no disclosure of the substance of the de Gaulle-Rusk discussion on this key point of nuclear proliferation, except for a reminder from American sources that Rusk often has said in the past that no nation that now possesses nuclear weapons wants to spread them to others.

Reveals NATO Now Has U.S. Nuclear Items

By Robert H. Estabrook
The Washington Post Foreign Service

PARIS, Dec. 16—German proposals to use American-supplied atomic demolition devices to guard eastern borders against possible Communist attack had a near-nuclear impact outside the NATO ministerial meeting here today.

Such demolition weapons are already present in Germany in accordance with NATO plans, it was learned. They could be used for blocking valleys or destroying bridges before an enemy advance.

These devices are part of the American nuclear stockpile in Germany which Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said today has a power of more than 5000 times that of the atomic bomb used on Hiroshima—or the equivalent of about 100 million tons of TNT.

Speech Creates Stir

McNamara caused a chain reaction with a speech stressing the massive plenty of American nuclear weapons available for the defense of Europe. More strategic weapon expenditures would be unjustified, he indicated, but NATO needs a better balance of non-nuclear capabilities.

Meanwhile American pressure for establishment of the proposed Multilateral Nuclear Force (MLF) of up to 25 surface vessels armed with Polaris missiles almost vanished.

Officials were denying that such pressures had ever represented the position of President Johnson. The United States, it was said, will welcome any plan the Allies can agree upon to share nuclear

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U.S. Has A-Devices in Europe

clear responsibility with Germany without proliferation of nuclear weapons.

German Defense Minister Kai-Uwe von Hassel referred to the atomic demolition devices in remarks to the NATO Ministerial Council. German military chiefs reportedly had suggested that they be sown like mines along the border between East and West Germany.

Part of Stockpile

Although these devices are only part of the nuclear armory available in Germany, a high American official confirmed that they are of substantial importance and that their possible defensive use should be regarded seriously.

In his speech this morning, however, McNamara in effect took issue with the report of a NATO study group by implying that reliance on tactical nuclear battlefield weapons would be an uncertain guarantee against nuclear escalation.

His stress on the need for a non-nuclear "option" and his insistence that additional expenditures on strategic forces would not change the outcome of a nuclear war were taken as an indirect downgrading of the French *force de frappe*.

But his statement that a nuclear war would involve 100 million casualties each for the United States and the Soviet Union, with grim prospects for Europe, was immediately taken up by others to prove contradictory points.

British Defense Secretary Denis Healey, in a heated exchange with French Minister Maurice Couve de Murville, asked whether the *force de frappe* could protect Europe without similar casualties.

But Healey also turned the argument against the MLF, noting that the proposed multilateral force would be under American command and asking whether, in view of the casualty estimates, it was really necessary.

French Defense Minister Pierre Messmer indicated a French belief that strategy should return to the massive retaliation concept of the 1950s. France could not supply more ground troops to NATO beyond its present two divisions in Germany, he said.

Healey argued that it was most unlikely that there could be any increase in present military manpower. Without directly mentioning suggested cuts in the British Army of the Rhine (BOAR), he implied that some present dispositions are unrealistic.

The American view is that maintenance of the BAOR at a strength of 55,000 is important and within British economic capacity, although there is agreement with the significance attached by Britain to commitments from Aden to Hong Kong.

In his speech to NATO ministers, McNamara also made these points:

- American strategic forces at the service of NATO now

include more than 800 intercontinental ballistic missiles and 300 Polaris missiles plus hundreds of B52 and other bombers.

- NATO non-nuclear capacity within present force goals—which call for 30 divisions by comparison with the 24 in being—is generally adequate except for a few countries.

- American tactical aircraft can be moved to Europe very quickly, and capacity to air-lift tonnage to any point in the world has doubled since 1961 and will be tripled by 1970.

- Use of tactical nuclear weapons might cause an enemy to retreat, but on the other hand it might cause him to reply in kind and escalate the conflict. No one is about to test the thesis, and hence tactical nuclear weapons are not a substitute for a non-nuclear option.

Not Placed Like Mines

Respecting the atomic demolition devices now placed in Germany, it is understood that the analogy to a mine is too simple. They are not weapons to be placed every 100 feet along a frontier or to be merely placed in a hole and set off with a plunger—though presumably they could be centrally detonated.

Positioning of these devices by NATO is part of the 60 per cent increase in the nuclear stockpile within the last three years.

Radioactive fallout from these devices would be a rela-



The Washington Post

The lines denote the border of West Germany with Eastern Europe. Germans reportedly have proposed a plan of seeding the border area with nuclear mines provided by the United States and now being held in arsenals within Germany.

tively minor problem, it is said, because of their low yield. Their use to defend terrain against an invader would involve less risk of escalation than the employment of larger nuclear weapons.

Although the availability of American atomic demolition devices was being viewed as a reassurance to Germany, it hardly compensated for the other disappointments Germany has received, including the reduced emphasis on the multilateral force.

To compare the demolition weapons with the MLF, it was noted, would be like comparing a howitzer with a battleship.

U.S. Atomic Demolition Device Kept Secret

By John G. Norris
Staff Reporter

The United States has had "ADMs"—atomic demolition munitions—in its nuclear arsenal for some years, ready for battlefield use.

Authoritative sources at the NATO meeting in Paris said yesterday that such weapons have been assigned to North Atlantic alliance forces in Europe but held under American control. Their presence there, and even their existence, have been kept quiet.

ADMs were developed earlier largely for defensive use in West Germany or where similar situations exist elsewhere.

The tactical nuclear charges would be employed like conventional demolition weapons—to create a barrier to prevent enemy forces from advancing, particularly at a mountain pass, bridge or other bottleneck.

Their advantage over TNT weapons long used for similar purposes is that one nuclear blast could do the work of many conventional charges, and the enemy could not immediately repair the damage and reopen the route because of contamination.

They also might be used to destroy a barrier left by an enemy, through which tanks then might pass.

The atomic demolition charges would be placed in position by special troops and then be detonated by elec-

tronic or mechanical remote control. Or they could be set off by timing devices left by the retreating forces which placed them.

ADMs can be, and perhaps are, equipped with some sort of permissive action links, electronic locks or other safeguards to prevent their use except upon authorization by the appropriate higher command headquarters.

Disclosure that such weapons have been assigned to NATO came after West German leaders reportedly laid a proposal before the Western Alliance Council now meeting in Paris for planting "atomic mines" along the East-West German border.

From the description of the proposal carried in news dispatches, it appeared to military observers here that the West Germans want to actually position the ADMs at key points along the border, to be detonated by electronic or mechanical signal in an emergency, rather than sow mines that are tripped by an advancing enemy.

This might well have political and psychological advantages in German eyes, but it would have distinct disadvantages to American officials concerned about keeping the ADMs in closely guarded arsenals in West Germany, as now, ready for placement if war comes.

Putting them in position would create security problems, requiring guards. Their

presence might well become known, making them a target of enemy bombing or espionage. Such pre-placed weapons would have to be maintained, raising other problems. Also the danger of unauthorized use might be increased.